



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Field Office Name

Address

In Reply

Refer to:

Date

The Honorable Bill Owens, Governor  
Office of Policy  
Attn: Mr. John Swartout  
136 State Capitol  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Owens:

Enclosed, please find a copy of a proposed Amendment to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan (RMP). The amendment is to change the Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) designation of the Box Creek Planning Area to one of "limited to designated roads and trails". The Planning Area is located in Lake County, about 7 miles southwest of Leadville. At this time, I am requesting the Governor's Consistency Review, as required by the regulations in 43 CFR 1610.3-2(e).

In the enclosures you will find a copy of 43 CFR 1610.3-2(e), the Environmental Assessment/Proposed Plan Amendment; the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the action; and an unsigned copy of the Decision Record.

In the Box Creek Planning Area, the BLM and US Forest Service (USFS) cooperated on a joint planning effort to identify vegetation management options and to designate roads and trails in an area covering about 19,000 acres. This Consistency Review applies only to BLM's travel management portion of the Box Creek Planning Area, about 2,400 acres. Further coordination occurred with the Lake County Commissioners, the CO Division of Wildlife, and adjacent landowners.

In the proposed decision, BLM proposes to designate a travel system of about: 3.8 miles of road open all year; 2.7 miles that are seasonally closed; 1.5 miles that are closed, except for administrative use; and 14.6 miles that are closed and restored. The proposed decision will benefit water quality through the reduction in erosion; wildlife habitat through a decrease in the area of disturbance; recreation through better definition of available routes; riparian and wetland areas through less disturbance; cultural resources through better protection; and private property through avoidance by recreational users.

In the environmental analysis, no significant issues came up in relation to the plan amendment or the

change in the OHV designation. Numerous benefits were identified by controlling where vehicles can operate. Public comments were received from 19 individuals and groups, with no specific comments on roads. No inconsistencies with state and local plans, programs and policies have been identified.

The above cited regulations allow for a 60 day period for the Governor's Consistency Review. Please be advised that you need only respond if you find inconsistencies. I am requesting that you notify me immediately if inconsistencies are found.

If you have any questions about this proposed plan amendment, please contact Name, FO Planning and NEPA Coordinator, phone number.

Sincerely,

Field Manager  
Field Office

Enclosures (4)

cc: BLM CO State Director